Dog Left in Car for Nearly 24 Hours — Situation Takes Unexpected Turn

by Cyn Mackley — 1 day ago in Public Safety

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A call about a dog reportedly left inside a vehicle for nearly a full day turned out to be more complicated than it first appeared.

Portsmouth police were dispatched to Grandview Avenue around 10 a.m. after a caller reported a dog had been left inside a black Chevrolet Impala for almost 24 hours.

The caller also reported the vehicle appeared abandoned, had no license plate, and was parked near Sonora.

🐶 OWNER FOUND

After officers arrived, a woman came to retrieve the dog.

According to the report, she told officers the dog belonged to her boyfriend and explained that the couple is currently homeless.

Police did not report finding the dog in distress and took no enforcement action.

Instead, officers advised the woman about local resources that may be available to help.

⚠️ WHY CALLS ABOUT DOGS IN CARS ARE TAKEN SERIOUSLY

Animal welfare advocates warn that vehicles can become dangerously hot in a surprisingly short amount of time.

Even on mild days, temperatures inside a parked vehicle can rise rapidly.

Signs of heat distress in dogs can include:

- Heavy panting
- Excessive drooling
- Vomiting
- Weakness
- Collapse

In severe cases, heatstroke can become fatal.

👀 HOMELESS PET OWNERS FACE UNIQUE CHALLENGES

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Animal welfare groups note that many people experiencing homelessness have pets and often view them as family members.

Unfortunately, finding safe places for both people and pets can be difficult.

Some shelters and assistance programs offer pet-friendly services, but availability varies by community.

In this case, officers determined no further action was necessary after speaking with the woman and assessing the situation.

What started as a possible animal cruelty complaint instead became a reminder that not every call is exactly what it first appears to be.

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A report received by the Scioto County Sheriff's Office is prompting an investigation into allegations that a teenager was sexually assaulted while in foster care approximately two years ago.

According to the incident report, Adams County Children Services contacted Scioto County authorities after receiving information from a juvenile currently in their custody.

The child reported being sexually assaulted while living in a foster placement.

Because the alleged assault may have occurred in either Scioto County or Lawrence County, authorities are working to determine where the incident took place and which agency will ultimately handle the investigation.

🚨 ALLEGATIONS SURFACED YEARS LATER

According to the report, the alleged incident occurred roughly two years ago.

The victim is now a teenager and currently remains in the custody of Adams County Children Services.

Deputies took information for a report and documented the allegations.

No arrests have been made, and no criminal charges have been filed at this time.

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⚠️ DELAYED REPORTING IS COMMON

Experts say it is not unusual for child victims to wait months or even years before disclosing abuse.

Children may delay reporting because of:

- Fear of retaliation
- Confusion about what happened
- Feelings of shame or guilt
- Concerns about getting someone in trouble
- Trauma associated with the event

For that reason, many investigations begin long after the alleged incident occurred.

👀 FOSTER CARE CASES CAN INVOLVE MULTIPLE AGENCIES

When allegations involve foster placements, investigations often require coordination between:

- Children's services agencies
- Law enforcement agencies
- Prosecutors
- Medical professionals
- Victim advocates

Jurisdiction can also become complicated when a child has lived in multiple counties or when the location of the alleged offense is unclear.

At this point, deputies have taken information and the matter remains under investigation.

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